Chinese Help to Pakistan for Missile Production

3423. SHR1 RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item * published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 7th August 2001 under the caption "New Chinese Missile parts of Pak" meant to help Islamabad with the production of Shaheen-i missiles and the development of Shaheen-II;

(b) whether Pakistan has received as many as 12 shipments of missile components from China this year, the last instalment being on 1st May 2001;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether the Washington Times in its issue dated 6th July, 2001 has also observed that "this problem is serious"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a), (b) and (d) The news item is based on a report in *The Washington Times* of 6 August 2001 about US spy satellites having deteced twelve shipments of missile components from China to Pakistan up to 1st May this year. *The Washington* Times also quotes a senior US Administration official's observation on continued Chinese arms shipments that "The problem is serious". China has denied the report.

(c) These revelations are not new to us; they confirm the validity of Government's own assessments. Government has conveyed to its interlocutors its concern about the adverse effects on India's security from continuing nuclear and missile proliferation in Pakistan despite the existence of various export control regimes and declarations of restraint by supplier countries.

Revision of Indo-Bangladesh visa Agreement

3424. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the 1972 visa "greement signed between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objective of revising the 1972 Indo-Bangladesh visa agreement; and

(d) the date from which the new agreement would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) An agreement on revised travel arrangements between India and Bangladesh was signed on May 23, 2001 in Dhaka. This revised arrangement seeks to liberalise the 1972 visa regime between India and Bangladesh with a view to, *inter alia,* facilitating grant of long-term multiple-entry visas to businessmen, investors, professionals, research scholars, students and for people travelling on medical grounds. The notification on the Agreement on revised travel arrangements is under issue.

Payment of Excess Money for Renewal of Passport

† 3425. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indians residing abroad in Chicago have to pay double amount in addition to the normal fee to the officers of Indian embassy for renewal of their passports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the matter by high ranking officials;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Government has no such information. If any specific instance is brought to the notice of the Government, a suitable inquiry would be conducted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Crossing of Indo-Bangladesh Dotted Lines

3426. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the officers of both India and Bangladesh are helping anyone to cross die dotted line at 131 km. border stretch in Murshidabad district of West Bengal for money consideration; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop smuggling of arms, heroin and gold that has become rampant due to illegal immigration?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.